

Remarks

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 23-37 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 10-17 and 20-22 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 18, and 19 are rejected. Claims 3 and 7-9 are objected to.

Claims 4-5 and 18-19 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 1-22.

The drawings have been objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “8” has been used to designate both an impeller retainer (page 5, line 25 and page 10, line 16) and a biasing retainer (page 5, line 27 and page 10, line 17).

Both references are proper. The impeller 7 includes an impeller retainer 8 that holds the impeller 7 on a motor shaft 9. In some cases, as is shown in FIG. 3, the impeller retainer 8 comprises a biasing impeller retainer 8. The biasing impeller retainer 8 comprises one embodiment of the impeller retainer 8 and is therefore a proper term. However, the above cited text at page 5, line 27 and page 10, line 17, has been modified to recite “biasing impeller retainer 8” in order to prevent confusion.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters “65” (page 6, line 11) and “64” (page 6, line 16) have both been used to designate a fastener.

The “fastener 65” at page 6, line 11 is incorrect and is corrected herein to read “fastener 64.” In addition, at page 6, line 16, “a fastener 64” is amended to read “the fastener 64.”

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mention in the description: “56” (page 6, line 29). FIG. 6 is amended herein to add the reference number “56” to the drawing, and a Replacement Sheet is provided.

The drawings are objected to because they fail to disclose 'arrows' as disclosed on page 7, line 13. FIG. 7 is amended herein, and a Replacement Sheet is provided.

Claims 4-5 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant herein amends claims 4-5 and 18-19 to remove the indefiniteness.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 10-17 and 20-22. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowability of claims 3, 7-8, and 9 and further of claims 4-5 and 18-19.

Claims 1-2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,199,138 (Nordeen). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection

Independent claim 1 requires a baseplate affixed to the chassis and including an access aperture formed in the baseplate, wherein the access aperture extends at least partially over the inlet housing and wherein the inlet housing can be accessed through the access aperture. Advantageously, in some embodiments the access aperture is of a size and shape to allow the inlet housing to be removed from the chassis (see page 5, lines 3-7 of the application). Another advantage is that the access aperture can be of a size and shape to further allow removal of the impeller of the vacuum cleaner fan unit.

Nordeen does not disclose an access aperture in a baseplate wherein an inlet housing can be accessed through the access aperture of the baseplate. In contrast, Nordeen discloses a cover plate 40 (see FIG. 2) that extends over an air passage 20 (see FIG. 3). Nordeen discloses that the cover plate 40 is cut out for the brush 14 and is further cut out for the bottom of the blower housing portion 34 (see col. 2, lines 35-39 and see FIGS. 3-4). However, Nordeen does not disclose a cut out for accessing the air passage 20. The cover plate 20 must be removed to access the air passage 20 and the blower 22 (see FIG. 4 and see col. 1, lines 33-34).

Independent claim 1 therefore includes features that are neither taught nor suggested by Nordeen. Claims 2 and 6 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-22.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

Date:

4/18/07


SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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Enclosures: Replacement sheets for FIGS. 6 & 7